IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace paragraph at pg. 1, lines 16-27, with the following amended paragraph:

-- Hitherto, a technique of shielding dust from optical apparatuses ~~have~~ has been proposed. The technique consists in vibrating a protective glass plate (glass dust shield) to remove dust from the glass dust shield. An example of this technique is disclosed in, for example, Jpn. Pat. Appln. KOKAI Publication No. 2002-204379. In the example, a piezoelectric element is used as means for vibrating the glass dust shield. The piezoelectric element expands and contracts in response to the voltage applied on it. It vibrates the glass dust shield attached to it, at a predetermined frequency.--

Please replace paragraph at pg. 4, lines 14-22, with the following amended paragraph:

-- In another specific case, the user may try to shorten the time for rapid-sequence photographing, at the expense of image quality. He may reduce the number of pixels recorded for each image, thereby to shorten the time [[of]] required to access the medium, which stores the image data. If performed in this condition, the removal of dust will increase the release-time lag. Consequently, the rapid-sequence photographing speed decreases, against the user's intension.--

Please replace paragraph at pg. 6, line 27 – pg. 8, line 10, with the following amended paragraph:

-- According to an eighth aspect of the invention, there is provided an imager apparatus of the type according to the fifth aspect. In the apparatus, the operation-prohibiting unit allows the vibration member to operate every time [[an]] a photographing operation is performed after the photographing-mode setting unit selects a single-shot photographing mode, and allows the operation-prohibiting unit to operate at only the first photographing and prohibits the vibration member from

operating at the second photographing and any photographing following the second photographing.--

Please replace paragraph at pg. 14, line 10 – pg. 15, line 2, with the following amended paragraph:

-- The camera body 11 incorporates a finder ~~deice~~ device 13, a shutter unit 14, an imaging unit 15 and a plurality of electric circuits, which are located at specific positions. The finder device 13 constitutes a so-called observation optical system. The shutter unit 14 has a shutter mechanism that controls the time for which a light beam is applied to the photoelectric conversion surface of the imaging element. The imaging unit 15 includes an imaging element (not shown) and a dust filter 21 (also called "glass dust shield"). The imaging unit 15 generates an image signal that represents an image of the object. The dust filter 21 assumes a predetermined position, in front of the photoelectric conversion surface of the imaging element. The filter 21 is designed to prevent dust particles or the like from sticking to the photoelectric conversion surface. Among the electric circuits is a main circuit board 16, on which various electric components are amounted. (The other circuit boards are not shown in FIG. 1.)--

Please replace paragraph at pg. 37, lines 16-21, with the following amended paragraph:

-- A dust-filter drive circuit [[48]] 140 exemplified here has such a configuration as shown in FIG. 13. Some of its components generate signals (Sig 1 to Sig 4) that have waveforms illustrated in the timing chart of FIG. 14. Using these signals, the circuit [[48]] 140 operates as will be described below.--

Please replace paragraph at pg. 37, lines 22-26, with the following amended paragraph:

-- As shown in FIG. 13, the dust-filter drive circuit [[48]] 140 comprises an N-scale counter 241, a 1/2 frequency-dividing circuit 242, an inverter 243, a plurality of MOS transistors [[255a]] 244a, 244b and 244c (Q00, Q01, Q02), a transformer 245, and a resistor 246 (R00).--

Please replace paragraph at pg. 54, line 25 – pg. 55, line 8, with the following amended paragraph:

-- If it is determined in Step S313 that the rapid-sequence photographing mode has been set, the process goes from Step S313 to Step S314. In Step S314, the release SW may be operated in the rapid-sequence photographing mode. Then, it is determining whether the photographing operation is to be performed for the first time. If YES, it is necessary to effect dust shielding reliably before the photographing operation is carried out. Thus, the process goes to Step S315. In Step [[S215]] S315, dust shielding is effected in the same conditions as in Step S303.--

Please replace paragraph at pg. 86, lines 4-20, with the following amended paragraph:

-- If it is determined in Step S403 that no bulb photographing is proceeding, ~~. In this case,~~ the process goes to Step S4030. In Step S4030, the time counter starts operating to measure the exposure time. In Step S4031, it is determined whether the shutter-opening time is equal to or longer than a preset time (Tlong). If it is equal to or longer than Tlong, the process goes to Step S4032. In Step S4032, the vibration is suspended for a prescribed time. Upon lapse of the prescribed time, the vibration is resumed. Then, in Step [[S3403]] S4033, the dust shielding is continued for a preset time. In Step S3404, it is determined whether the timer counter has finished counting the shutter-opening time. If the shutter-opening time has been counted, the process

goes to Step S406. If the shutter-opening time has not been counted, the process goes to Step 3402.--

Please replace paragraph at pg. 93, lines 1-16, with the following amended paragraph:

-- If it is determined in Step S115 that HQ mode is set as image-quality mode, the process goes from Step S115 to Step S117. In Step S117, the dust filter 21 is vibrated at the frequency (f1) for a preset time (T2). The frequency is the same as in Step S116, but the time of driving the filter 21 is different. In HQ mode, the image quality is lower than in LAW mode or SHQ mode. In view of this, the dust shielding need not be effected to the same degree as in LAW or SHQ mode. Thus, it suffices to drive the dust filter 21 for a short time. That is, T1>T2. The short filter-driving time helps to decrease the power consumption and the release-time lag. The data representing this filter-driving time is stored in the nonvolatile memory [[29]] 129. After Step S117 is performed, the process goes to Step S118.--